

REMARKS

I. Status Of The Claims

Claims 1-37 are pending in this Application.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to.

Claims 1-8, 10, 22-25, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaneko (U.S. Patent No. 6,353,485).

With this response claims 7-9, 15, 17-21, 23, 25-29, 31, and 33-37 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1-6, 10-14, 16, 22, 24, 30, and 32 are amended.

II. Objection to the Abstract

The Office Action objects to the abstract of the disclosure “because it exceeds 150 words”.

With this response, Applicants amend the abstract such that it is less than 150 words in length, and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10, 22-25, and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With this response the Applicants amend claims 1-6, 10, 22, and 24, and cancel claims 7, 8, 23, 25, and 27-29 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants submit that claims 1-6,

10, 22, and 24, at least as amended herewith, are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Office Action rejects independent claims 11, 16, 22, 24, 30, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaneko. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Kaneko fails to disclose all aspects of those claims, at least as amended herewith.

For example, Kaneko fails to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... a serial output unit adapted to output the image data read by said image reading unit in a serial form; and
a plurality of parallel output units adapted to output the image data read by said image reading unit in a plurality of types of parallel forms”
(emphasis added)

as stated by independent claim 11.

As another example, Kaneko fails to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... selecting one of output unit in a serial form and output units in a plurality of types of parallel forms to output the image data read in the image data reading step”
(emphasis added)

as stated by each of independent claims 22 and 30.

As yet another example, Kaneko fails to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... a dummy clock generating unit adapted to generate a dummy clock similar to the output clock signal when said image reading unit reads a reference image”
(emphasis added)

as stated by independent claim 16.

As an additional example, Kaneko fails to disclose, teach, or suggest:

“... generating a dummy clock similar to the output clock signal when a reference image is read in the image reading step”
(emphasis added)

as stated by each of independent claims 24 and 32.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11, 16, 22, 24, 30, and 32, as well as those claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4650. **A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.**

Furthermore, in the event that an additional extension of time is required, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to

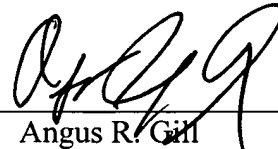
make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the above-noted Deposit Account and Order No.

Respectfully submitted,

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